

Newsletter No. 1

ENI CBC BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME 2014-2020

BSB908 Smart Farming brings Black Sea Basin area to digital era

BSB908 Smart Farming is a project that belongs to the wider ENI CBC BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMME 2014-2020 that is funded by the European Union. The purpose of this project is to develop and implement a replicable and transferable model for preparing the conditions needed to ensure the digital transformation in agriculture in the BSB area.

Pieriki Anaptixiaki S.A. - O.L.A. from Greece is the Lead Partner of the project. Bulgaria is represented by the Business Agency Association that is a public-private entity, having the head office in Varna, and many other branches that cover the whole country. The Fund «Investment Support Center» represents Armenia and was established by the Government of the country in 2002. "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati from Romania is the fourth project manager of BSB908 Smart Farming.

"Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati is the most important institution of higher education in the South - Eastern of Romania. Telavi State University represents Georgia in the project consortium. TeSaU is also a higher educational institution, comprising five faculties and more than 30 laboratories that focus on the regional priorities as agrarian sciences, tourism and ecology. The sixth project partner is Business Advisory Center, an independent non-profit development organization, that is the representative of Moldova in the BSB908 Smart Farming project.



On December 21, 2020, the project partners met online to discuss the deployment of the WPT1 activities. The main goals set during this meeting are connected to establishing a map of digital agriculture stakeholders in order to have an inventory and to understand the preparedness level for digital agriculture amongst stakeholders. The next step will be focused on the development of partnerships. The partners also discussed how they are going to prepare the conditions to perform the investigation in their country, according to the methodology.



On the 23rd of March 2021, "Dunarea de Jos" University of Galati, Faculty of Engineering, partner in the «Jointly preparing the conditions in the agricultural and connected

sectors in the BSB area for the digital transformation» project, organized an online meeting on the Zoom platform in order to discuss the project's progress and the implementation state.



The project manager, Dr. Eng. Konstantinos C. Zapounidis, delivered a presentation of the project BSB - Smart Farming, representing Pieriki Anaptixiaki S. A., Local Development Agency of Central Macedonia in Greece. The LB expert, Post-doctoral researcher PhD, MSc Efthimios Ch. Rodias, presented the Smart Farming in Greece and, especially, in the wide region of Central Macedonia. During the online meeting, the results achieved in the first implementation phase, related to the analysis on smart agriculture in the BSB partners countries, were presented and discussed. The event



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A quarterly newsletter of the project

Common borders. Common solutions.

brought together over 50 experts in interdisciplinary fields who will contribute to the development of a sustainable community that will support the adoption of new and smart technologies in agriculture and other related sectors.

In April 2021, the WPT1 activities were completed, being presented and discussed by the project partners during the online meeting organised on the 19th of April 2021. The goal of this event was to analyse the research results (such as smart technologies examples, agricultural needs of communities in BSB for the domains of crop production system, farming system, value chain analysis, agricultural trade and environmental policies and sustainable food system) achieved by six partner countries in the field of smart farming.



The Quadruple Helix (QH), employed for the research analysis, is an innovation and collaboration model based on the citizen/end-user perspective. This is a useful tool that puts centrally the citizens' needs, as is the case in agriculture. Using the QH and involving the citizens can lead to more successful user-oriented innovations and, subsequently, the end-users will be more likely to accept and use them.



Besides, extra results from stakeholders' database of 600, 100 per country and in-depth primary research and secondary research analysis have been collected through a common research methodology that was applied to each partner country.

During the investigation on the preparedness level for smart farming in Black Sea Basin (BSB) consortium, all the stakeholders from the quadruple helixes were envisaged to involve in the approach. In order to perform a detailed analysis on the regional BSB partners country areas level, the following quadruple helix figures were envisaged: farms, farmers, regional public and national public authorities, sectoral agency, infrastructure, and (public) service providers, interest groups including NGOs, higher education and research institutes, education/training centres and schools, business support organizations, international organizations under national law and enterprises.



The Synthesis Report on the preparedness level for smart farming in the BSB area countries shows the investigation results in the BSB farming communities and reveals an urgent need in farming communities that should become more competitive, sustainable and productive, by improving their businesses, production processes, products, services through a smart farming ecosystem, supported by the digitalization of services. The regional analysis covers six partner countries, being focused on six directions: the country's background, agriculture policies, funding initiatives in smart farming, quadruple helix approach in agriculture field, smart and IoT technologies available in each country, agricultural needs of the rural communities.



More information on the research results, as well as general information on the BSB908 Smart Farming project, are available at the website address:

<http://bsb-smartfarming.com/>

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